

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application. The specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent error. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended.

Claims 3 and 4 have been objected to by the Examiner. These claims have been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,336,989 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter "Aoki").

Aoki corresponds to Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2000-51175 (JP-A 10-223444). This reference is described in the present specification beginning at page 2, line 18 to page 3, line 26. Figs. 1 and 2 (both labeled PRIOR ART) are respectively equivalent to Figs. 1 and 13 of Aoki.

According to Aoki, as shown in Fig. 9, when a pole piece 18 is to be installed onto a permanent magnet 20, the pole piece 18 is positioned above the magnet 20 and slowly lowered using a lift 50 toward the magnet 20 against a very large magnet attracting force which might reach approximately 10-ton. As a consequence, this prior art suffers from the problem that the lift 50 should be very firmly constructed to an extent of being strong enough to withstand such a large force. In addition, when the pole piece 18 is installed on the permanent magnet 20, it is inevitably required to secure a large space over the permanent magnet 20 for the lift 50, and as such, the installation of the pole piece 18 onto the permanent magnet 20 should be done before assembling column yokes 22 and an upper magnetic unit 12a.

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Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Further, according to Aoki, as shown in Fig. 13, the upper magnetic unit 12a should be carefully lowered inch-by-inch by way of a crane, in the case of which a plurality of guiding rods 64 are used to assist the precise lowering of the magnetic unit 12a (column 10, lines 21-31).

It will be appreciated that the Aoki installation of the pole pieces according to Aoki is problematic because strong installing apparatuses are necessitated, with the result that the settings of the pole pieces on the permanent magnets are expensive and time consuming to a considerable extent, as described in the opening paragraphs of the instant specification.


It is apparent from the foregoing that Aoki completely fails to disclose or teach the claimed present invention. This is, according to the present invention, the pole piece is installed onto the permanent magnet by sliding the pole piece on the magnet in a direction parallel with the main surface of the magnet. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to more clearly define the invention, as set forth below. Claims 1 and 3 have also been amended to include a new step for defining that the two permanent magnets and the yoke are assembled after which the pole piece(s) are installed, which feature is neither disclosed in nor taught by Aoki.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Callahan
Registration No. 32,607

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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